Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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TSC STARTS NEW TERRORIST WATCHLIST ENCOUNTER REVIEW PROGRAM
Records Of Frequently Encountered Individuals To Be Reviewed Automatically, Even Without Redress Requests

To continue reducing misidentifications while ensuring the quality of data used for a national security tool the Government Accountability Office described as having "enhanced the U.S. government's counterterrorism efforts" and "helped to combat terrorism," the Terrorist Screening Center announced today that it is initiating a new program to automatically review the terrorist watchlist records of frequently encountered individuals even if no formal redress requests are filed. The Terrorist Encounter Review Process (TERP) will provide a guaranteed review of such records to ensure they are accurate, complete and current.

"The Terrorist Watchlist has become a very effective counterterrorism tool and the new TERP program will help ensure we have the best information to appropriately handle known or suspected terrorists while reducing adverse effects on persons misidentified as watchlist subjects," said Leonard Boyle, Director of the Terrorist Screening Center.

Both the Department of Justice's Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office have acknowledged previous initiatives undertaken by TSC to improve data quality. In addition to the reviews conducted during the nomination process, TSC conducts quality assurance reviews in a number of its business processes. The TSC's Redress program also conducts a comprehensive review of records related to requests referred to TSC by its screening partners through redress programs like DHS TRIP (www.dhs.gov/trip).

The TERP program was developed based on a TSC initiative undertaken in early 2007. It is consistent with a recommendation from the Justice Department's Inspector General in a subsequent audit. Under the proactive TERP program, the terrorist watchlist records of frequently encountered individuals will be automatically subjected to a comprehensive review to ensure that each record is complete, accurate and current—and merits being maintained in the watchlist. TERP also will specifically review records to determine if new data is available to enhance terrorist watchlist records in an effort to reduce misidentifications.

The U.S. Terrorist Screening Center (TSC), established December 2003 by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-6, serves as the U.S. Government's consolidation point for known and suspected terrorist watchlist information, both foreign and domestic. The consolidated watchlist contains records that are updated daily and shared with Federal, state, local, territorial, tribal law enforcement and intelligence community agencies as well as international partners to ensure that individuals with links to terrorism are appropriately screened. The TSC is a multi-agency organization administered by the National Security Branch of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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